

Employment numbers to drop for new Schmid & Sons, Inc.

❑ Operations start to wind down at George Schmid & Sons, Inc.

By Dawn Feldhaus
Post-Record staff

Many of the current employees at George Schmid & Sons, Inc., in Washougal, will be looking for new jobs soon, as the company prepares to cease operations in a few months.

There are currently around 75 Schmid employees, according to company President Kevin Schmid. When he opens his new business Schmid & Sons, Inc., he expects to hire six to 12 employees — including some of the current

company's workers.

"We're going to start out slow, and then build on that," Schmid said.

He said discussions about severance issues have begun with the current employees who will lose their jobs. Schmid decided to make an announcement about the pending George Schmid & Sons, Inc.'s closure on April 21, to put a stop to rumors and give employees opportunities to look for jobs now. He expects the current company's operations to wrap up by September.

Two years ago, the company employed up to 125 individuals.

"There have been difficulties in picking up jobs," Schmid said. "Housing

developments pretty much stopped. Commercial projects are slowing down. The public works sector is pretty steady, but more people are bidding."

George Schmid & Sons, which started as a sole proprietorship in 1958, was incorporated into a family business in 1990. It has been located at the same site, 1411 32nd St., since its inception. George Schmid passed away in 1999. His widow, Emma Schmid, has decided to retire.

The company has been involved in excavation and site development work on several large local projects including Evergreen Marketplace and Bi-Mart, in Washougal; and

Camas Safeway. Schmid & Sons' services will include excavation, road building, crushed rock, underground utilities and equipment rental.

Kevin Schmid, the youngest of George and Emma's children, is hoping to have the new company open by June 1.

"We appreciate everything the community has done for us in the past, and we appreciate all of our employees that have made us what we are today," he said. "We're hoping to build this thing up, in the next five to 10 years."

For more information, call 835-5137 or log on to www.gschmid.com.